



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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FISCAL YEAR 2006 ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL – H.R. 2419

SUMMARY

The Energy and Water Development appropriations bill reported to the House on 18 May 2005 (H.R. 2419; H.Rept. 109-86) provides new budget authority equaling the 302(b) suballocation to the Appropriations subcommittee of the same name. The bill is consistent with the appropriate levels in the conference agreement on the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 95), and hence complies with the applicable provisions of the Congressional Budget

Act. It also complies with provisions of the budget resolution, such as those governing advance appropriations and emergency designations.

This is the third of 11 appropriations bills for the fiscal year beginning 1 October 2005; the restructured Appropriations Committee has reduced the number of its annual measure to 11 from the previous 13.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

The bill provides \$29.746 billion in new budget authority [BA], and \$30.264 billion in outlays for 2006 – a decrease of \$410 million, or 1.4 percent, in BA from fiscal year 2005, and an increase of \$437 million in outlays. The bill is \$1 million above the President's request in BA, and is \$92 million below the request in outlays.

As noted, BA provided by the bill is equal to the 302(b) suballocation to the Subcommittee on Energy and Water; outlays are \$9 million below the suballocation (see Table 1 below). Savings are achieved by a small rescission of previously enacted discretionary appropriations – discussed in the "Offsets" section below.

Table 1: Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2005 Spending ^a	Administration 2006	302 (b) for 2006	Bill
Budget Authority	30,156	29,745	29,746	29,746
Outlays	29,827	30,356	30,273	30,264

^a Excludes emergency-designated appropriations.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

As noted above, the bill complies with provisions of the Congressional Budget Act because it is consistent with the appropriate levels in the budget resolution. It contains no

advance appropriations or emergency-designated spending, the use of which are governed by the budget resolution – and hence also complies with H.Con.Res. 95.

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This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill
(in millions of dollars)

	2005 Budget Authority	2005 Outlays	2006 Budget Authority	2006 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Department of Energy	24,233	23,911	23,843	24,159	-390	248
<i>National Nuclear Security Administration</i>	9,214	8,876	8,849	8,943	-365	67
<i>Enviro. and Other Defense Activities</i>	7,724	7,912	7,521	7,577	-203	-335
<i>Energy Programs</i>	7,409	7,236	7,507	7,692	98	456
<i>Other Department of Energy</i>	-114	-113	-34	-53	80	60
Department of the Interior	967	990	967	1,037	0	47
Corps of Engineers - Civil Works	4,668	4,674	4,728	4,816	60	142
Other	288	252	208	252	-80	0
Total	30,156	29,827	29,746	30,264	-410	437

DISCUSSION

The bill provides \$23.8 billion in discretionary BA to the Department of Energy [DOE], a reduction of \$390 million from the 2005 enacted level (see Table 2 above). Within the department, BA is reduced from the 2005 level by 2.6 percent for Environmental and Other Defense Activities (\$203 million), and 4 percent for the National Nuclear Security Administration (\$365 million). For Energy Programs, the bill increases funding by 1.3 percent from 2005 levels. Noteworthy changes include the following:

- *National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA]* – The bill does not adopt the administration’s proposed transfer of environmental cleanup responsibility to the NNSA.
- *Yucca Mountain* – The bill provides \$661 million for the Yucca Mountain repository, an increase of \$84 million above 2005 and \$10 million over the administration request. This includes \$310 million for Nuclear Waste Disposal, and \$351 million for Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal. The additional funds are provided to begin moving spent nuclear fuel to an interim DOE storage facility.
- *DOE Science and Technology* – The measure provides \$3.7 billion for DOE Science programs, an increase of \$203 million over the President’s request, and \$66 million over the prior year’s enacted level. This includes resources to develop a spent nuclear fuel recycling initiative for the United States.
- *Power Marketing Administrations* – The bill provides \$265 million for the Power Marketing Administrations, an increase of \$57 million above last year and \$208

million above the request. The bill does not include the administration’s proposal to use offsetting collections to offset Power Marketing Administrations’ operations and maintenance costs.

- *BOR* – The bill provides \$967 million to the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation [BOR] which equals the 2005 enacted level.
- *Corps of Engineers* – The bill provides \$4.7 billion, a \$60-million boost over the 2005 enacted level. This spending restraint was brought about through reductions in the rate of spending growth for construction and operations and maintenance, both of which have increased by about 5 percent per year since 2000.

OFFSETS

- *Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] Fees* – The bill provides for a one-year extension of the 90/10 fee recovery percentage in use since 2001. Total NRC offsetting collections are expected to total \$581 million in 2006.
- *Rescissions* – The bill denies funding for rehabilitation of a dredge and accordingly rescinds \$19 million from Army Corps of Engineers budget authority for that purpose.
- *Deferral*. The bill defers, until fiscal year 2007, a sum of \$257 million in previously appropriated funds for the Clean Coal Technology Initiative, providing equal BA savings for 2006, and a matching increase in 2007. The administration proposed rescinding these funds.

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